

SUMMARY - 2014 CHATSWOOD P&C SURVEY

Introduction

Most schools in NSW have a Parents' and Citizens' Association (P&C). Chatswood Public School also has a P&C, made up of parents who volunteer to be involved. Each P&C is responsible for supporting its school through a range of activities and services including fundraising.

In 2014, the Chatswood P&C wanted to find out what were the best ways to communicate with parents about its activities and services, and to find out if there were opportunities to get more parents involved in the P&C. So it decided to run a short anonymous online survey.

Results

A total of 309 parents completed the survey over a 10-day period. It is estimated this represents approximately 30% of all school parents. Some of the main results from the survey are as follows:

Issues in the survey	Key findings
Parents' knowledge of P&C activities	Parents' knowledge of P&C activities varied: it was highest for fundraising events and making decisions about how fundraising money is spent.
Parents' preferences for P&C information	80% of parents want to receive P&C information by email; the current P&C website is not used regularly by most parents.
The P&C Master Plan	Less than 20% of parents were familiar with the Master Plan.
The P&C Canteen	64% of parents did not use the Canteen ordering system. Among those who did, approximately half were very satisfied with the system.
The P&C Uniform Shop	70% of parents supported a new online ordering system.
Parents' interest in participating in P&C activities	65% of parents said they would be interested in participating or already did; 35% did not answer this question.

Next Steps

The survey responses from parents have provided incredibly valuable information about areas for improvement, and stronger engagement with the wider parent community. Priority actions in 2015 will include:

- Increased communication with parents about the P&C, its activities and services, and the range of opportunities available to parents to participate and contribute
- Greater use of email communication
- Increased communication about the P&C Master Plan
- Translation of key information into other languages
- Introduction of an online Uniform Shop ordering system and pricing review
- Provide communication about pricing approach and menu including healthy food guidelines

Thanks

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